



# National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Statistical Office

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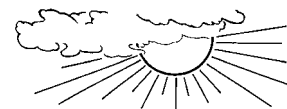
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NASS



## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 8, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 9, 2005, 4 pm

*This report can be found on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa)*

**Good Week for Field Work:** Cool, dry conditions prevailed last week in Pennsylvania, allowing field work to progress full steam ahead but limiting crop progress and germination. In spite of minimal rainfall, topsoil moisture is yet to reach drought levels. Overall, 6 days were suitable for field work this past week. Principal farm activities included plowing, hauling manure, hauling lime, planting corn, oats, and soybeans, and putting livestock out to pasture.

### PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 8, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1	21	74	4

**Crops:** Farmers continued to plant oats well ahead of pace as 94 percent of this year's crop is now planted. This is 13 percentage points ahead of historic averages. Soil temperatures have affected emergence, as 43 percent of oats have emerged, behind the 5-year average. Oat conditions declined from last week as 72 percent of what has emerged is rated as either good or excellent. Fifty-two percent of barley is headed, ahead of last year's pace but behind the 5-year average. Plowing is well ahead of schedule and is now 84 percent complete. Fifty-two percent of corn has been planted, well ahead of historic averages. Fourteen percent of this year's soybean acreage is now planted. Fifty-two percent of potatoes have been planted, well ahead of the normal pace for this time of year. Ninety-five percent of tobacco has been planted, and 5 percent of the tobacco crop has been transplanted. Seven percent of winter wheat has headed, which is slightly behind of historic trends. Winter wheat conditions were rated with the following for the week: 1 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Alfalfa is estimated to be 1 percent

very poor, 3 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Likewise, timothy clover stand was rated as 1 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Ninety-nine percent of apples have reached pink stage and 74 percent are in full bloom, both ahead of historic averages in development for this time of year. Ninety-seven percent of apples are rated as either good or excellent, and 92 percent of peaches are rated as either good or excellent.

**Livestock:** Pasture conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. This is relatively unchanged from last week.

**U.S. As of May 1, 2005:** Highlights - In a reversal from previous weeks, below-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation, slowing winter wheat heading and emergence of summer crops. Over the weekend, temperatures dropped below freezing as far south as the central Corn Belt. However, freeze damage to jointing winter wheat was not widely reported. Corn: Fifty-two percent of the crop had been planted, compared with 59 percent last year and 45 percent for the 5-year average. Emergence, at 13 percent complete, was 3 percentage points behind last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Soybeans: Growers had planted 8 percent of their acreage, 3 points behind last year and 1 point behind normal. Winter Wheat: Heading advanced to 30 percent complete, compared with 36 percent last year and 31 percent for the 5-year average. Small Grains: Oat planting, at 79 percent complete, was 2 points behind last year but 10 points ahead of normal. Emergence advanced to 51 percent complete, compared with 52 percent last year and 46 percent for the 5-year average.

# Weather Data For Week Ending May 8, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 8, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
<b>Northwest</b>												
Erie	63	34	45	-8	0.19	3	4.49	0.42	18	79	10	292
Franklin	67	29	45	-9	0.18	3	4.15	-0.30	16	70	2	320
Meadville	68	34	47	-6	0.12	2	3.43	-0.77	15	91	38	341
Mercer	71	24	44	-10	0.20	4	5.13	0.87	17	50	-21	276
Springboro	68	28	45	-9	0.43	4	5.64	1.69	17	50	-25	254
Warren	69	29	44	-9	0.45	3	5.10	0.61	16	64	5	297
<b>North Central</b>												
Bradford Region	63	24	41	-8	0.14	4	2.85	-1.49	18	33	-1	215
Emporium	67	27	44	-7	0.15	4	2.45	-2.02	17	55	14	287
Kane	65	24	41	-9	0.16	3	3.40	-1.20	17	20	-12	191
Laporte	62	29	44	-10	0.24	4	5.37	1.14	18	55	-24	259
Lock Haven	70	28	46	-9	0.03	2	2.56	-1.40	12	90	2	364
Port Allegany	65	25	42	-10	0.06	2	2.14	-1.89	13	39	-7	222
Renovo	69	30	46	-9	0.12	1	2.23	-1.73	14	88	0	363
Ridgway	65	25	43	-8	0.13	3	2.78	-1.69	14	37	-4	250
Stevenson Dam	68	29	45	-6	0.04	3	2.60	-1.87	16	74	33	332
Towanda	68	29	46	-8	0.09	2	4.68	0.90	13	61	-19	304
Wellsboro	65	27	42	-8	0.09	3	3.27	0.17	14	51	15	234
Williamsport	71	30	47	-9	0.02	1	4.53	0.37	10	129	7	415
<b>Northeast</b>												
Hawley	64	27	44	-8	0.07	1	5.92	1.51	13	41	-6	249
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	68	31	48	-8	0.02	2	4.04	0.19	12	133	36	420
Susquehanna	64	28	45	-6	0.17	3	4.83	0.21	15	53	13	279
<b>West Central</b>												
Butler	69	29	46	-8	0.01	1	4.12	-0.04	14	91	6	377
New Castle	73	29	48	-7	0.08	4	5.39	1.52	17	104	31	385
Slippery Rock	70	29	47	-6	0.10	3	5.01	0.99	16	97	34	394
<b>Central</b>												
Altoona/Blair	64	29	45	-11	0.00	0	0.64	-3.41	5	107	-3	379
DuBois	62	29	45	-9	0.10	4	2.84	-1.46	20	92	24	349
Lewistown	69	32	47	-10	0.01	1	2.54	-1.37	13	114	-24	419
Middletown	70	37	52	-7	0.03	1	5.02	0.74	10	194	31	539
Prince Gallitzi	65	24	43	-10	0.10	3	2.49	-2.95	14	49	-13	282
Selinsgrove	69	31	46	-9	0.02	1	4.80	0.70	11	84	-23	369
State College	64	32	47	-8	0.00	0	1.57	-2.20	11	112	18	407
<b>East Central</b>												
Allentown-Bethel	69	32	49	-8	0.06	1	6.63	2.07	13	141	15	462
Lehighton	68	31	48	-9	0.05	2	7.07	2.72	13	91	-27	392
Matamoras	65	29	46	-10	0.12	2	5.92	0.84	16	61	-32	302
Tobyhanna	66	32	47	-3	0.08	1	5.66	0.43	14	85	53	372
<b>Southwest</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	67	35	50	-6	0.23	2	2.91	-1.34	13	201	89	530
Derry	65	30	47	-8	0.15	2	3.98	-0.29	16	105	24	395
Myersdale	62	26	41	-13	0.19	2	2.30	-2.77	12	36	-47	243
Mount Pleasant	66	28	45	-8	0.20	2	2.08	-3.09	17	97	36	389
Pittsburgh Intl	69	32	49	-8	0.20	1	3.46	-0.57	16	173	47	485
Rector	64	31	46	-7	0.17	2	3.27	-1.90	17	91	30	381
Waynesburg	69	28	47	-9	0.00	0	2.73	-1.71	13	100	1	399
<b>South Central</b>												
Biglerville	69	35	49	-9	0.02	1	3.90	-0.42	12	138	-25	462
Everett	61	26	42	-13	0.02	1	1.99	-2.30	11	48	-50	279
Hanover	70	32	49	-10	0.03	1	4.16	-0.16	11	142	-21	461
Shippensburg	68	33	48	-11	0.00	0	2.91	-1.20	11	142	-29	455
South Mountain	69	33	48	-8	0.00	0	4.28	0.23	11	132	26	456
York	69	30	48	-11	0.04	1	3.95	-0.59	10	163	-6	480
<b>Southeast</b>												
Green Lane	68	34	50	-7	0.15	1	7.44	2.67	11	131	15	459
Hamburg	72	31	49	-6	0.06	1	5.30	0.28	11	153	67	473
Hopewell	69	34	49	-10	0.07	1	5.32	0.54	12	133	-40	463
Lancaster	70	32	49	-9	0.06	1	4.22	-0.17	9	158	28	485
Neshaminy Falls	68	33	48	-9	0.13	2	5.02	-0.13	12	102	-25	408
New Holland	71	36	50	-7	0.13	1	4.54	0.15	10	168	38	500
Philadelphia	70	37	53	-6	0.01	1	5.38	0.77	11	222	39	589
Philadelphia NE	69	37	52	-8	0.04	2	4.91	0.30	10	207	24	564
Reading	70	32	50	-8	0.08	1	5.10	0.17	10	176	61	509
Valley Forge Na	71	30	48	-11	0.10	1	7.74	2.96	11	121	-52	423
Willow Grove	67	36	51	-7	0.06	1	4.74	-0.41	11	173	46	518

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney (FSA)** - Adams County is getting too dry. Field work continues to progress. We need some moisture so the crops planted this spring will continue to progress. Four out of 5 weekdays last week, Adams County had frost and cold temperatures from 25-30 degrees. This could affect the fruit blossoms but will not be known to what extent until around June. All fruit is in full bloom or past bloom. Wheat and barley should soon be pushing heads when we receive some moisture. Some producers have started to cut their first cutting of alfalfa at the end of last week and others will be doing so this week. Corn, soybeans, and oats continue to be planted.

**BLAIR COUNTY, Brian Kelly** - It is very dry in Blair County.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA)** - Oats are finally peaking out of the ground. The week has been cool with a few showers. Temperatures are still too cool for much growth in the county.

**CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker** - No rain during the week. Cool temperatures and lack of rain are hurting crop germination and early growth. We need warm weather with showers to get the growing season moving forward.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice)** - A great week for tillage and planting. The ground is getting dry and could use some rain.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - The week started out with rain and even some snow flurries, but by the weekend, field conditions were decent. A large percentage of corn was planted this weekend along with herbicides applied. Many farmers were also putting cows out to pasture for the first time this season.

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tim Mussmon (AgChoice)** - Crop conditions are good to excellent. Corn planting is under way, and weather patterns for this week resembled early April weather. Next week looks more promising for planting and maybe some potential harvest of small grains.

**DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H Craig (EXT)** - There is still no emerged corn or soybeans. Seeds are in the ground and slowly developing. Grass hays are past boot stage. Alfalfa harvest is near. Many producers would like a little more moisture to enhance weed control but most forage producers are looking for a few days to chop haylage. There is the possibility of some frost injury to barley. Frosty temperatures can lead to injury to small barley florets at critical periods.

**ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis (FSA)** - Rainy, cold weather deterred any planting. Oats have emerged. A warm, dry weekend has helped to dry up rain saturated ground.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - It was a good week for plowing and preparing fields for the spring crops. The weekend was exceptionally warm. Most farmers have their spring oats and barley planted. Grain farmers have planted many acres of corn. It appears that the planting season is well ahead of last year.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA)** - Another good week for field work. Many producers have finished up planting their full season corn. Some alfalfa was cut late in the week. It's too early to tell, but it looks like yield will be off as we need some warm nights to extend the growth. Apples and all fruit are in excellent condition. The season is a few days later than normal, but again, some warm weather will help.

**FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas** - Our hay crops appear to be "backsliding" some at this time. They just don't look like they should.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Greg Hostetter (EXT)** - Planting is going very well. Topsoil conditions are dry to very dry in most cases. It's getting difficult to get planter penetration in some no-till fields. The lack of rainfall is slowing growth in many pastures.

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - This was a busy week in the fields, but the weather was cool and frosty. You could finally see rows of early potatoes, but by Wednesday, they were black. After a couple of warm days, they will be back.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT)** - Cool weather has delayed sweet corn emergence and successive plantings. Frost caused minor damage to tree fruit, strawberries, and early sweet corn.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS)** - Cool weather kept corn from emerging. The warm weather expected should change things. Cutting rye and planting crops were in full swing last week with 6 days suitable for work.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT)** - Cool and cloudy weather prevented the soil from drying out enough to get much tillage and planting done until late in the week. Corn planted nearly 3 weeks ago is beginning to emerge. Things will be busy this week.

**POTTER COUNTY, David Stratton (FSA)** - Producers have been able to get most seedlings planted, and some corn is now being planted. Hay continues to grow slow with many mornings still receiving frost.

**SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA)** - Planting has been progressing at a rapid rate. Soil moisture levels have been depleting rapidly this past week with very windy conditions. Forecasts are for warm temperatures with little rainfall. Most growers are looking for a break from field work because of a rainy day!

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer** - The growth of oats, alfalfa, and timothy has come to a standstill due to the hard frosts that occurred on four of the past seven mornings along with overcast skies and cool daytime temperatures. However, barley and wheat are doing well. The planting of corn and soybeans continues with no emergence. Cattle are being pastured on good quality grasses. The main activities were planting corn and soybeans, plowing, and spreading of manure and lime.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney (NRCS)** - Corn planting is in full swing. Heavy frosts every morning are not allowing the grass to grow very much. Cattle are being moved onto summer pastures.

**TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes** - We had snow the first three days of the week. Then things turned around. Corn planting is beginning. The soil is warming up. We could use a good warm rain too help the oats, barley, and new seedlings get that fast jump out of the ground.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - Another excellent week for field work. The early week's cold temperatures slowed the progress of planted crops. Some damage from frosts may have affected early-planted crops. Grass growth has been a little slow because of the continued relatively dry conditions. With the late week warm-up, corn and soybean plantings are now in full swing.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 8, 2005**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	84	77	72
Corn, planted	52	49	40
Corn, emerged	8	11	9
Barley, heading or headed	52	50	60
Wheat, heading or headed	7	7	14
Oats, planted	94	81	81
Oats, emerged	43	46	51
Soybeans, planted	14	5	9
Tobacco beds, planted	95	100	100
Tobacco, transplanted	5	0	1
Potatoes, planted	52	56	42
Apples, in pink	99	100	76
Apples, in full bloom or past	74	100	74

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 8, 2005**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	17	66	16
Oats	0	5	23	64	8
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	3	28	52	16
Timothy clover stand	0	1	33	55	11
Pasture	2	5	33	45	15
Peaches	0	2	6	17	75
Apples	0	1	2	12	85

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